CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating hyperlipidemia in a hyperlipidemic comprising dosing the hyperlipidemic with an effective antihyperlipidemic amount of nicotinic acid or compound metabolized to nicotinic acid by the body, once per day in the evening or at night combined with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, to produce a reduction in total and LDL cholesterol, triglycerides and Lp(a), with a significant increase in HDL cholesterol.

2. A method, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the hyperlipidemic is dosed with from about 250 parts to about 3000 parts by weight of nicotinic acid.

3. A method as set forth in Claim 1 which causes little or no serious liver damage, uric acid increases or elevations in fasting glucose levels.

4. A method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the release rate of said nicotinic acid or compound metabolized by the body to nicotinic acid is from about 2.0% per hour to about 25% per hour.

5. A method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said nicotinic acid or compound metabolized to nicotinic acid by the body is prepared by formulating the active compound with from about 5% to about 50% parts by weight of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose per 100 parts by weight of tablet.

6. A method, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said nicotinic acid or compound metabolized to nicotinic acid by the body is dosed in the form of a sustained release formulation or tablet containing from about 1 to about 4 parts by weight of binder per 100 parts by weight of tablet.

7. A method, as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said binder is a polymer having the repeating polymerization unit 1-ethenyl-2-pyrrolidone.

8. A method, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said nicotinic acid or compound metabolized to nicotinic acid by the body is dosed in the form of a sustained release formulation or tablet comprising from about 0.5 to about 2.5 parts by weight of a lubricating agent per 100 parts by weight of tablet.

9. A method, as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said lubricating agent is selected from the group consisting of stearic acid and magnesium stearate.

10. A method, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the compound metabolized to nicotinic acid by the body to nicotinic acid is nicotinyl alcohol tartrate.

11. A method, as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the amount of nicotinyl alcohol tartrate is from about 100 milligrams to about 500 milligrams per dosage unit.

12. A method, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the compound metabolized to nicotinic acid by the body is selected from the group consisting of: d-glucitol hexanicotinate, aluminum nicotinate, and, 1-alpha-tocopheryl nicotinate.